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REVIEWS AND NOTES.

Women in the Bookbinding Trade. By Mary Van Kleeck. Published by the Russell Sage Foundation.

Miss Van Kleeck as secretary of the committee on women's work of the Russell Sage Foundation has made a careful study of the conditions under which women work in the trade of bookbinding. This trade was selected for study because it "illustrates concretely problems common to many other industries." As a part of the publishing business, however, judging from the evidence here at hand, bookbinding is more characteristically *sui generis* than representative. It is largely a subsidiary necessity to the conduct of many forms of business and has grown with the development of the advertisement medium common to modern business methods. Consequently it is frequently the manner and exigencies in the conduct of its employing business which accentuate conditions in the bindery.

New York as a great center of manufacture, commerce, travel, and art has a larger bookbinding business than any other part of the country. The great variety of form which these other interests require in publication matter creates an equally varied assortment of bindery shops. Many of the undesirable conditions would seem to be to a considerable degree dependent on the fluctuations of the other trades. For the same reason the responsibility of the individual consumer is more than usually vague.

Miss Van Kleeck's book is a manual for the student of industrial conditions. With the development of minimum wage boards the compilation of such knowledge about a specific business will be of increasing importance and value. The assembling of material which conveys more than the statistical results of an investigator's work is here well illustrated. Actual interviews with employer and employee are quoted in form sufficiently brief and yet adequate to illuminate the statistics used. By such a method the human values involved are made available to the student.

It is to be regretted, however, that in the presentation of such material a larger public is not in mind. One of the most important contributions to the solution of industrial problems is that of training the women directly involved into a knowledge of their own problems. A more literary method might, it would seem, accomplish both ends; the collection of information for the student, and a readable book for workers and the general public alike. Even by persons reasonably accustomed to reading for facts and inspiration the volume in question will, it is feared, be found somewhat confused, although the facts are there and with them, many intelligent observations. This shortcoming is due to the apparent failure of the investigator to objectify her literary task. We believe that even rather dry statistical material may be so handled as to achieve an artistic result. Here is added matter of warm human interest. This might have been used to better advantage if the material as a whole had been coordinated about the more distinctively salient points of the bindery business as a unique rather than as a representative trade.

The relation of the bookbinding trade to a dozen other kinds of business is, as we have pointed out, perhaps its most salient characteristic. About this fact hang the conditions of overtime, small and large shops, irregularities in methods of work, the adoption of the newest machine or the continuance of older ones. Upon these again rest the apparent difficulties of successfully applying industrial training to the trade.

In the organization of workers, representation in the Allied Printing Trades Council gives the members of the Bindery Union a strong position. There has been sufficient advantage in this alliance to enable a strong women's union to flourish. To it Miss Van Kleeck attributes more important results in matter of hours, training, minimum wage, and protection of individuals than any yet secured through legislation. Identity of interest with other trades created by the very diversity of the printing and publishing business thus serves to counteract some of the disadvantages to which its workers by the same fact are subject.

Any one familiar with the time and patience required to secure the information which Miss Van Kleeck has brought together cannot fail to appreciate the contribution made to specific knowledge by "Women in the Bookbinding Trade." Each chapter will be found of independent value in a study of industrial conditions, particularly those on "Overtime and the Factory Laws," and "Collective Bargaining." That on "Teaching Girls the Trade" is less satisfactory. The objections to training cited are not especially convincing and represent the natural unwillingness of the human mind to entertain a new idea with which those interested in industrial training have been familiar from the beginning. The most serious difficulty lies in the frequent changes in machinery to which the business is liable since, as indicated by this study, it is in a period of irregular transition. With a tendency to concentration in large factories, there is still place for small shops. New inventions are frequent. Their liability deters the smaller places from making radical changes, their introduction makes the factorized product more possible.

ELEANOR H. WOODS.

"*Die Selbstmorde im Kreise Teltow, 1810—1910*," by Dr. Reinhold Jaeckel.

Sonderabdruck aus der "*Zeitschrift des Königlich Preussischen Statistischen Landesamts*," Jahrgang, 1912. Gedruckt in der Buchdruckerei W. Koebke, Berlin S., Alexandrinenstrasse 99. 26 pages.

Dr. Jaeckel has given an intensive study of the suicides which occurred from 1810 to 1910 in Teltow, one of the suburban sections of Berlin. During this period there were 5,472 suicides, 4,405 of males and 1,067 of females. The numbers and sex distribution are given for each year. The suicide rate was about three times as high during the decade 1901-1910 as during the decade 1811-1820. The rate in Teltow is considerably higher than in Germany as a whole and at the end of the period was nearly twice as high as in the city of Berlin. One reason for this is that many who are residents of Berlin commit suicide in Teltow. At present about four per